

Serial No. 09/744,046

extension extending into a housing, a hinge; an upper lip which rests over the edge of an installation opening; and a lower lip sliding under the edge of the installation opening. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites a closure member made from an elastomeric material and configured to seal against the housing. Examiner states that Seidler discloses a closure member made from an elastic material. Although, Seidler discloses a hinged lid 12 made of plastic that exhibits some elastic properties, it is nevertheless a semi-rigid lid that is only relatively bendable at the formed hinge 18, see specification at col. 3, lines 23-24. Seidler, however, does not disclose a closure member made of an elastomeric material, and certainly does not disclose an elastomeric closure member configured to seal against a housing. The lid 12 of Seidler is made of a semi-rigid plastic material that is not capable of forming a seal against the body 14. Accordingly, the combination of Arbeiter and Seidler does not suggest or teach a closure member made of an elastomeric material and configured to seal against the housing as claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. For this reason, the obviousness rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-5 and 7 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since claims 3-5 and 7 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of claim 1 as amended, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

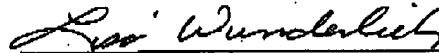
Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbeiter in view of Seidler as applied to claims 1, 3-5 and 7 and further in view of Robbins et al. Since claim 6 depends from and contains all the limitations of claim 1 as amended, it is felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

This reply is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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